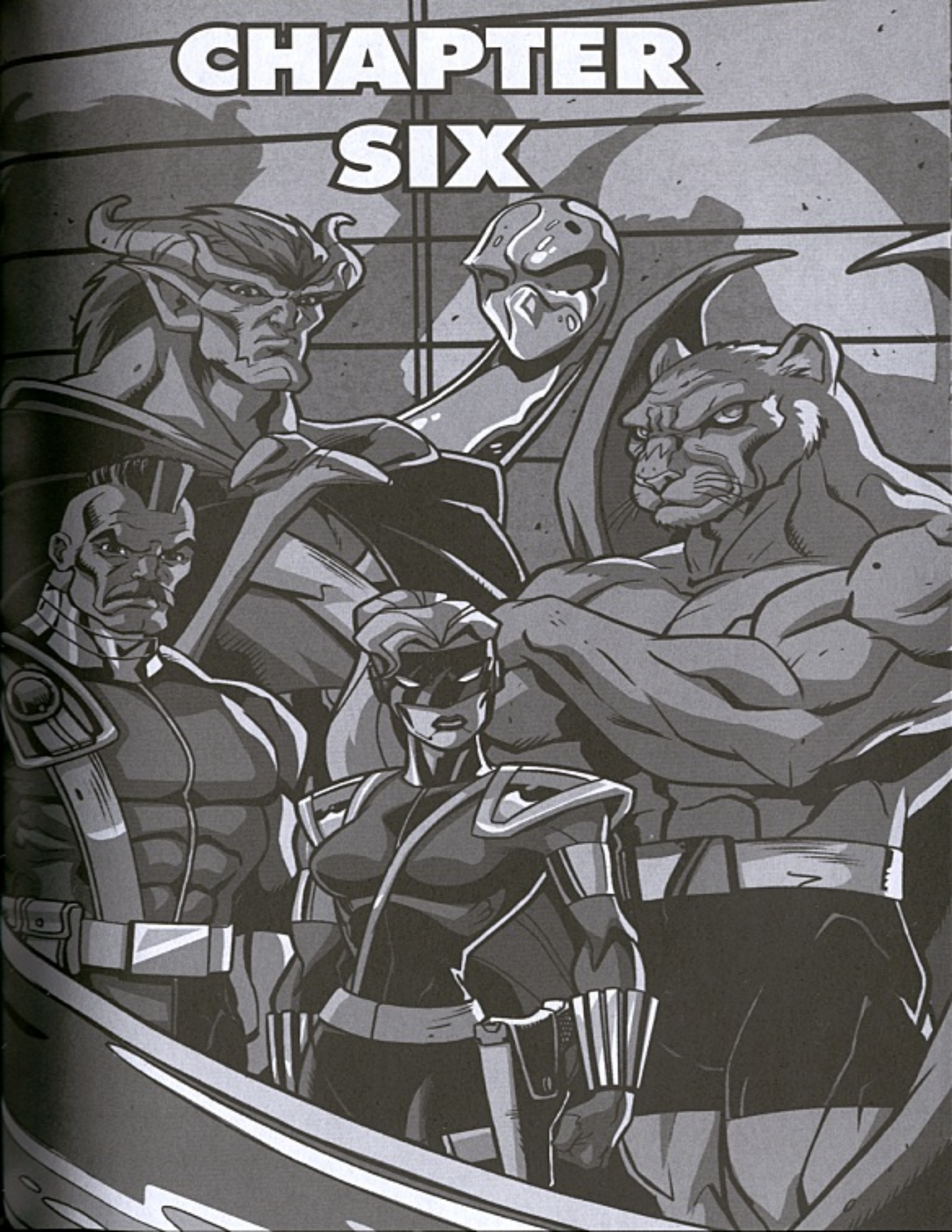

CHAPTER
SIX

BZZZZ
YES, DOLORES...

TROUBLE, MR. DIRECTOR. WE'VE LOST CONTACT WITH THEM.
IF THIS GROUP IS AS TOUGH AS ADVERTISED...
...THEY CAN HANDLE A LITTLE TROUBLE.
AND IF NOT?
THAT'S THEIR PROBLEM.
THEY KNEW THE JOB WAS HAZARDOUS...
"...WHEN WE FORCED THEM INTO IT."
GARGOYLES:
BAD GUYS
FORGIVE ME...
REDEMPTION
CHAPTER SIX: LOSERS

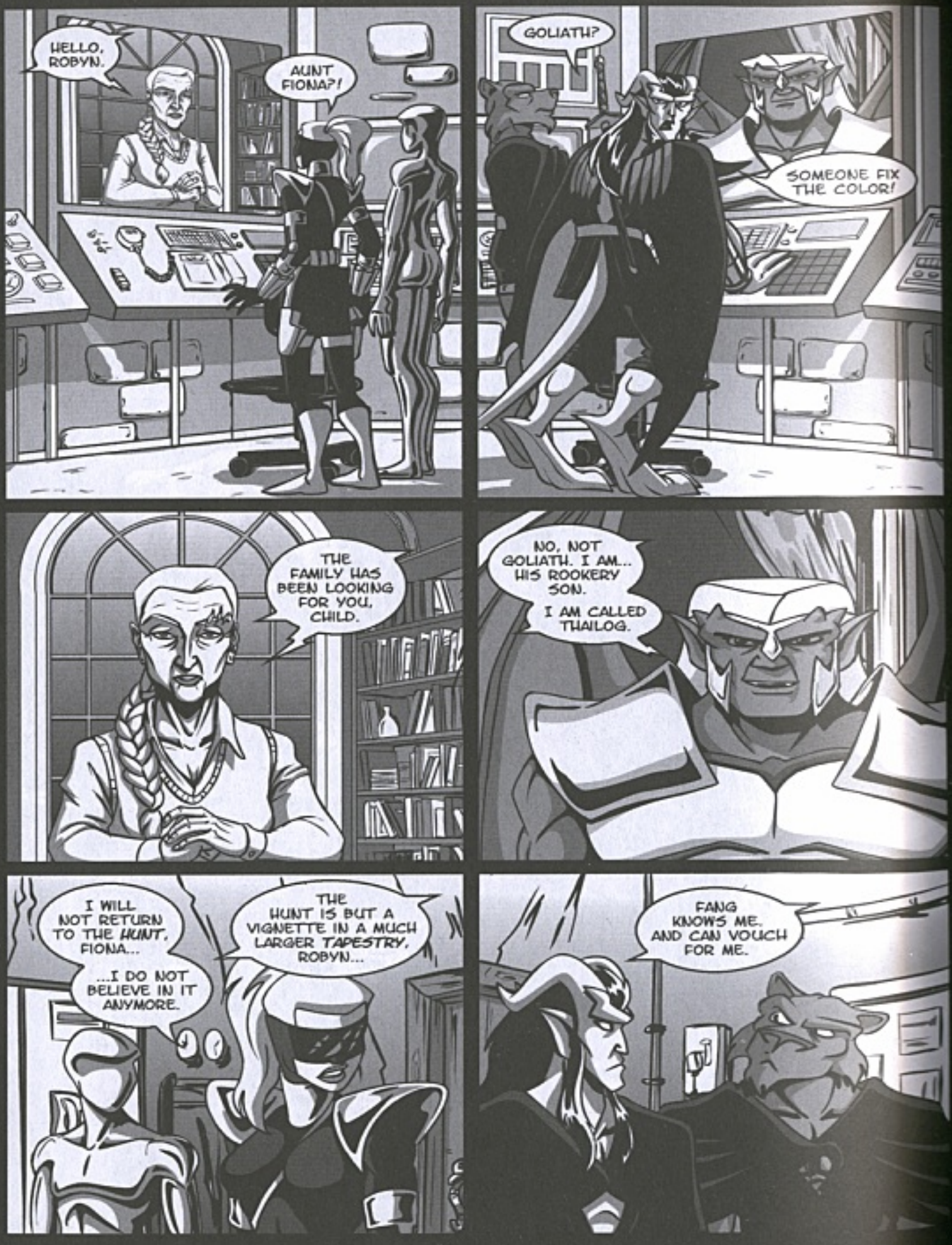
...BUT "SAFE" ISN'T THE FIRST WORD THAT COMES TO MIND.
APOLOGIES, PRETTY LADY.
PISTOL. POINTS. STAND DOWN. WE ARE AMONG FRIENDS.
MY FRIENDS SERVE LAW AND ORDER.
EXCELLENT CRITERIA...UH... HMMM...
PERHAPS INTRODUCTIONS ARE IN ORDER.

I AM FALSTAFF.
"THIS IS MISTRESS QUICKLY."
"MISTRESS DOLL."
"BARDOLPH."
"POINTS."
"AND PISTOL."
I GO BY DINGO NOW.
"THAT'S HUNTER."
"MATRIX."
"YAMA."
"AND FANG."
MOTLEY CREWS ON BOTH SIDES....

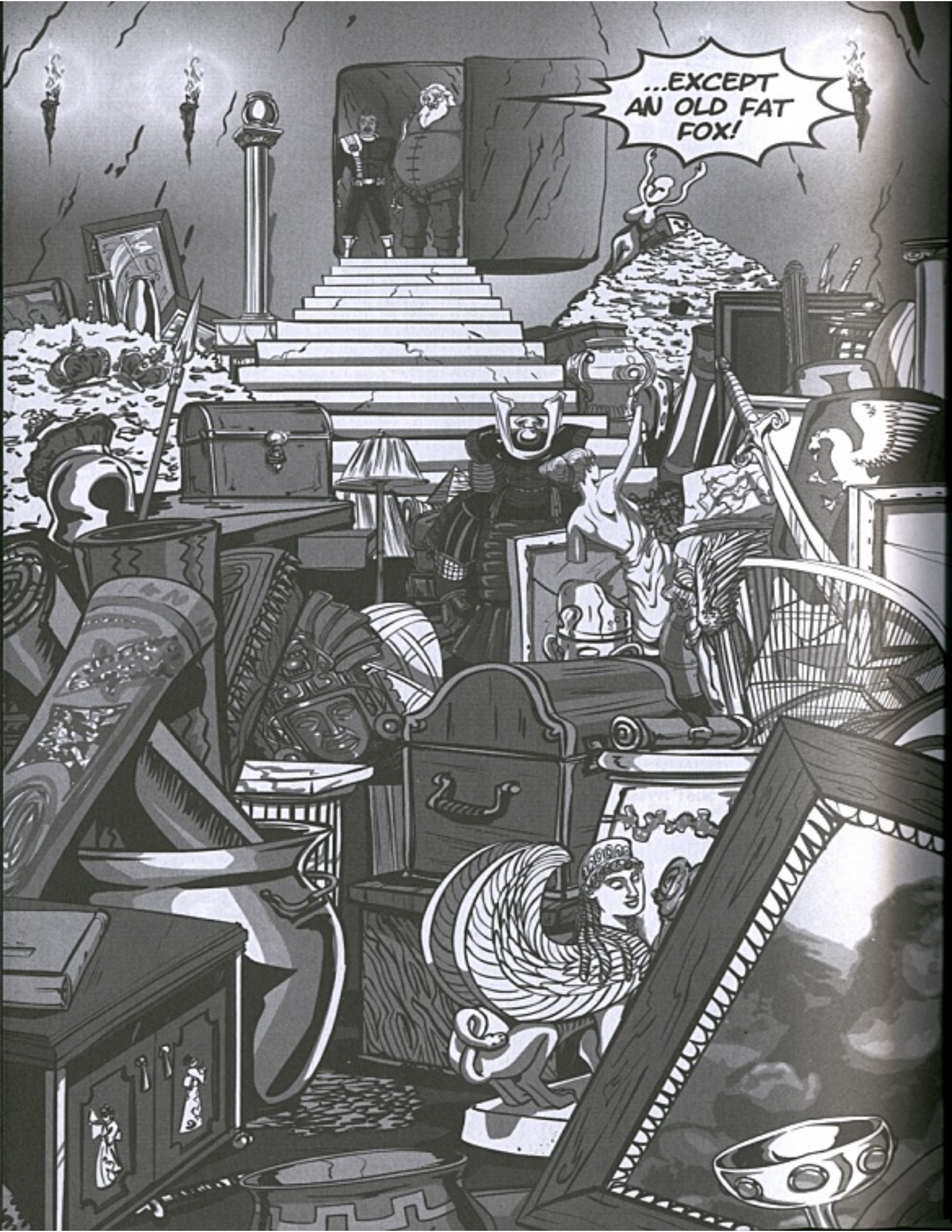
NOW, AS IT HAPPENS, YOUR ARRIVAL *INTERRUPTED* OUR DINNER...
...AND AS YOU CAN SEE, I'M *NOT* ONE TO MISS A MEAL.
SO ENJOY THE FEAST!
LET'S NOT GET TOO COZY JUST YET.
THIS ONE'S GOT QUITE THE *STICK* UP HER--
YOU HAVE *NO* IDEA.
NOW, MISTRESS HUNTER, WHY SO PUT OUT...?
WHEN *YOU'RE* THE ONE WHO BLEW UP *MY* 'BOTS.
MY DAMN *EXPENSIVE* 'BOTS, BY THE WAY.

TO BE FAIR, YOU STARTED IT...BLEW UP OUR CHOPPER.
YOU WERE TRESPASSING!
AND WHO TAUGHT ME TO DO THAT?
HAHA HAHA HAHAHAHA HA
POINT IS, WE WON'T BE BREAKING BREAD ANYTIME SOON...
UH...WE WON'T?
SO WHOM DOES SHE WORK FOR?
SOME GUY SHE CALLS "SIR".
I'D TELL YOU TO SHUT IT...BUT YOU DON'T KNOW ANYTHING.
WILL YOU RELAX? I TELL YOU JOHN--I MEAN, FALSTAFF HERE--PRACTICALLY RAISED ME.
THAT'S A RECOMMENDATION?
KNOWS YOU WELL, EH?

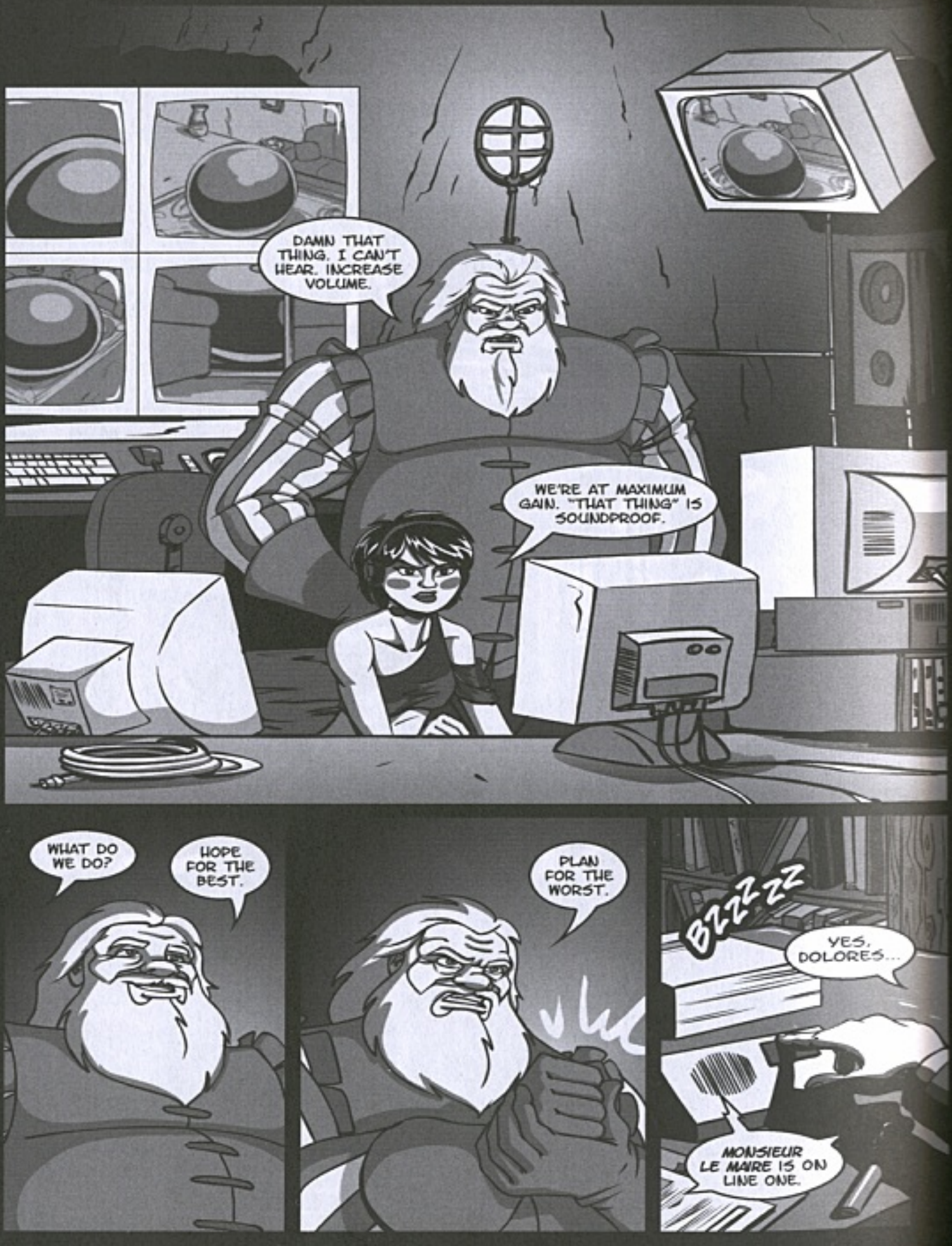
SO I HEAR YOU'RE TAKING OVER THE WORLD.
WE TRIED THAT WITH GEOMETRY.
SAVING THE WORLD, ACTUALLY. OR TRYING TO.
WE'RE THE GOOD GUYS, HARRY, AND I CAN PROVE IT...
...TO ALL OF YOU.


HELLO, ROBYN.
AUNT FIONA?!
GOLIATH?
SOMEONE FIX THE COLOR!
THE FAMILY HAS BEEN LOOKING FOR YOU, CHILD.
NO, NOT GOLIATH. I AM... HIS ROOKERY SON.
I AM CALLED THAILOG.
I WILL NOT RETURN TO THE HUNT, FIONA...
...I DO NOT BELIEVE IN IT ANYMORE.
THE HUNT IS BUT A VIGNETTE IN A MUCH LARGER TAPESTRY, ROBYN...
FANG KNOWS ME. AND CAN VOUCH FOR ME.

SURE. THAILOG'S MY KINDA GARGOYLE.
OF COURSE I UNDERSTAND, HARRY...
YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY ONE SEEKING A LITTLE... REDEMPTION.
HOW DO YOU THINK I GOT HERE? A MAN GETS TIRED OF PULLING JOB AFTER JOB...
...OF ALWAYS LOOKING OVER HIS SHOULDER.
YOU EXPECT ME TO BELIEVE YOU'VE GIVEN UP THE LIFE, YOU OLD FAT FOX?
THAT'S JUST IT, ISN'T IT?
WHEN YOU'VE GOT THE WORLD'S BIGGEST HENHOUSE...
...WHO ELSE COULD POSSIBLY GUARD IT...?


...EXCEPT AN OLD FAT FOX!

I'M SURE YOU'LL WANT SOME TIME TO CONFER...
...AND PRIVACY.
PRIVACY, MATRIX.
YES. IF EVERYONE WOULD HOP...


DAMN THAT THING. I CAN'T HEAR. INCREASE VOLUME.
WE'RE AT MAXIMUM GAIN. "THAT THING" IS SOUNDPROOF.
WHAT DO WE DO?
HOPE FOR THE BEST.
PLAN FOR THE WORST.
BZZZZZ
YES, DOLORES...
MONSIEUR LE MAIRE IS ON LINE ONE.

MONSIEUR LE MAIRE?
BONJOUR, MONSIEUR LE DIRECTEUR. WE'VE READ YOUR LATEST REPORTS...
...ON THIS NEW SQUAD YOU'VE ASSEMBLED.
OUI, MONSIEUR. IT WAS TIME TO FIGHT FIRE WITH FIRE.
BUT THAT IS NOT OUR WAY--
"--IT IS THE ENEMY THAT JUSTIFIES THE MEANS WITH THEIR END."
...THEN WE'RE AGREED.
ARE YOU ORDERING ME TO DISBAND?
NOT AT ALL. UNE BRIGADE DE REDEMPTION MAY INDEED BE THE KEY TO UNE VICTOIRE ULTIME...
"...AS LONG AS THEY DO NOT BECOME THAT WHICH WE FIGHT AGAINST."
WHERE DO WE SIGN?

LET'S NOT GET AHEAD OF OURSELVES.
OUR SOCIETY DOESN'T INDUCT JUST ANYONE.
FIVE MINUTES AGO...
FALSTAFF'S AN UNREPENTANT LIAR, BUT MAYBE THIS ONCE HE'S TELLING THE TRUTH.
HIS CREW-- THE ILLUMINATI-- MAYBE THEY ARE THE GOOD GUYS...
...AND MAYBE IT'S TIME YOU TOLD US EXACTLY WHO WE'RE WORKING FOR...?
LET'S BEGIN WITH FULL DISCLOSURE.
IT'S TIME YOU TOLD US EXACTLY WHOM YOU'RE WORKING FOR.

HOLD. THESE ILLUMINATI CANNOT BE TRUSTED.
HOW CAN YOU BE SURE?
INTERPOL. BASED OUT OF PARIS.
HMMM...HOW REVEALING.
NOW, YOU MUST BE EXHAUSTED. WE'LL FIND YOU EACH A PLACE TO BUNK--
THANKS, BUT...
FANG, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
...DO I LOOK LIKE A CHUMP?
AAAAHHHHH!

THE GARGOYLE I SPOKE TO ASKED FOR FANG'S ENDORSEMENT... WHICH FANG PROVIDED.
BUT...WE DON'T TRUST FANG...AND FANG KNOWS IT!
HAPPY TO HELP.
HEY, I'VE GOT EXPERIENCE IN BACK-STABBING!
TRUST ME, FAT-STUFF WAS ONTO US!
THEN OUR ORIGINAL MISSION STILL SERVES LAW AND ORDER?
YES, MR. ONE-TRACK-MIND.
THEN WE MUST DISABLE OUR OPPONENTS.
EASIER SAID THAN DONE.
INACCURATE. YOUR STATEMENT...
WHOA?!
UNHH!
...LACKS TRACTION.

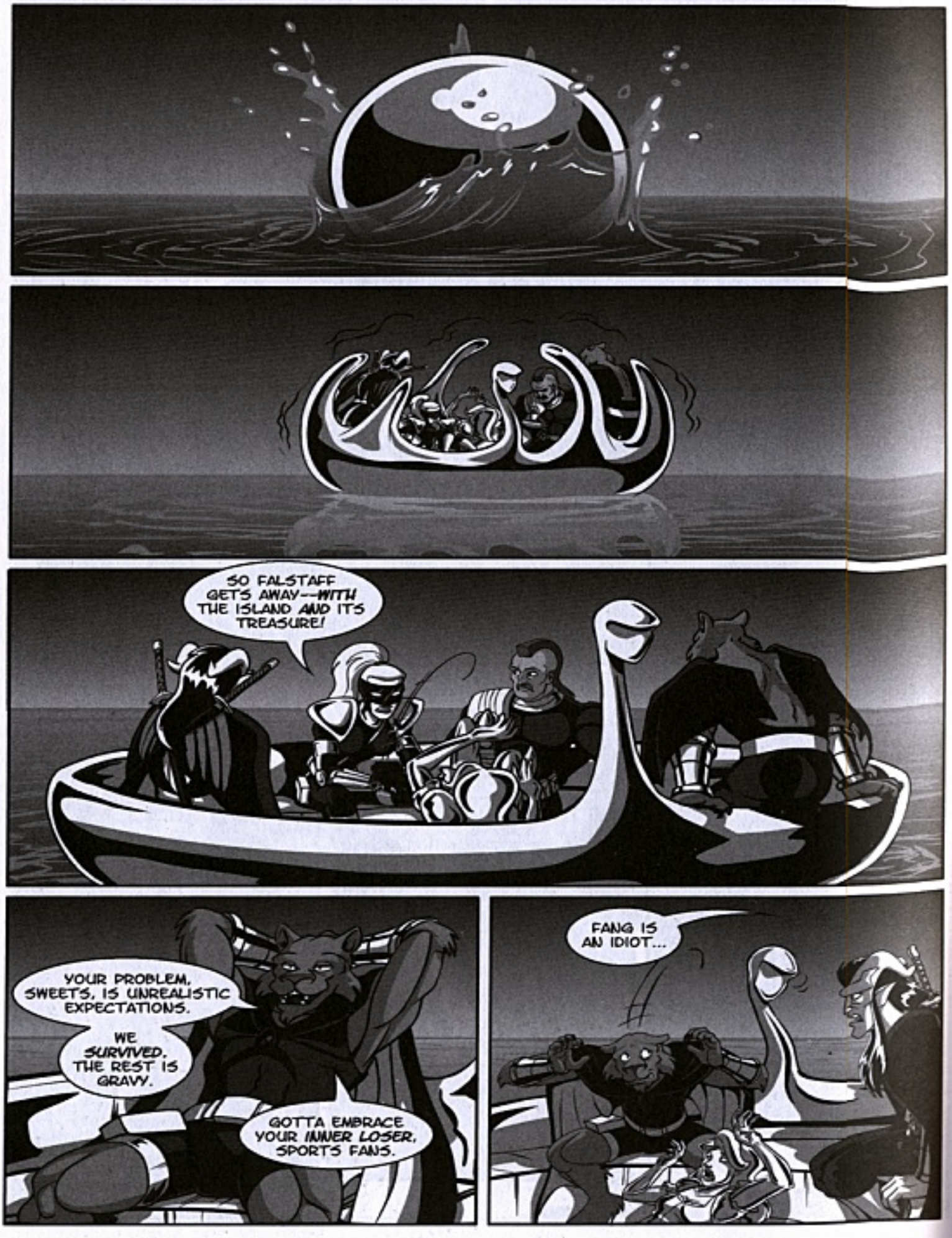
I'M DISAPPOINTED, HARRY.
JOIN THE CLUB, JOHN.
'S'NOT LIKE I WANTED TO TAKE YOU ON...
SO WE DESTROY THE BASE AS PLANNED.
NO.
TOO BAD, BOY. 'CUZ THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT YOU'LL HAVE TO DO.
YOU'RE GOOD. I'M BETTER.
WOULDN'T YOU AGREE?

YES, YOU ARE THE SUPERIOR SWORDSMAN.
BUT I HAVE OTHER TALENTS.
I WILL HEAL AT SUNRISE...
WHAM
...WILL YOU?
WE'LL DO OUR BEST TO SAFELY APPREHEND YOUR FRIEND.
IT'S NOT THAT.
I MEAN, SURE. WE DON'T WANT TO HURT ANYONE-- MUCH...

PISTOL!
READY.
STAND DOWN. I'VE GOT YOU--ALL OF YOU--COVERED.
NO, WE HAVE *YOU* COVERED.
WE ARE AN EXPLOSIVE DEVICE CAPABLE OF DESTROYING THIS ENTIRE ISLAND.
YEAH!!
...BUT WE CAN'T BLOW UP THE ISLAND.
EAST-CHEAP IS THEIR TREASURY...FILLED WITH *IRREPLACEABLE* WORKS OF ART AND HISTORY.
WE *HAVE* TO FIND ANOTHER WAY...

I KNOW THIS GAME. YOU'RE BLUFFING.
AND YOU'RE THE MAN WHO TAUGHT ME HOW TO PLAY.
ONE SHOT, PISTOL. TARGET OMEGA.
BANG

WHAT THE HELL, JOHN?! YOU WANT TO DESTROY THE ISLAND YOURSELF?!
EASTCHEAP'S NOT AN ISLAND, IT'S A SHIP.
AND I'M NOT DESTROYING IT, I'M SUBMERGING IT. MOVING IT.
'COURSE, THIS CHAMBER ISN'T WATERTIGHT, SO YOU BLOKES WON'T SURVIVE THE JOURNEY.
SORRY 'BOUT THAT, HARRY.


SO FALSTAFF GETS AWAY--WITH THE ISLAND AND ITS TREASURE!
YOUR PROBLEM, SWEETS, IS UNREALISTIC EXPECTATIONS.
WE SURVIVED. THE REST IS GRAVY.
GOTTA EMBRACE YOUR INNER LOSER, SPORTS FANS.
FANG IS AN IDIOT...

...BUT HE IS MORE RIGHT THAN WRONG.
HE IS?!
I AM?
WHICH OF US HERE DOES NOT SEEK REDEMPTION FOR PAST SINS?
I SEEK LAW AND ORDER.
ACKNOWLEDGED. BUT FOR THE REST OF US...
...REDEMPTION WILL NOT COME EASILY, NOR DOES IT COME WITH SUCCESS.
RESULTS ARE IMMATERIAL. THE PATH IS LONG...
...AND ONLY BY STRIVING WILL WE FIND OUR WAY.
THEN HOW WILL WE KNOW WHEN WE'VE ARRIVED?

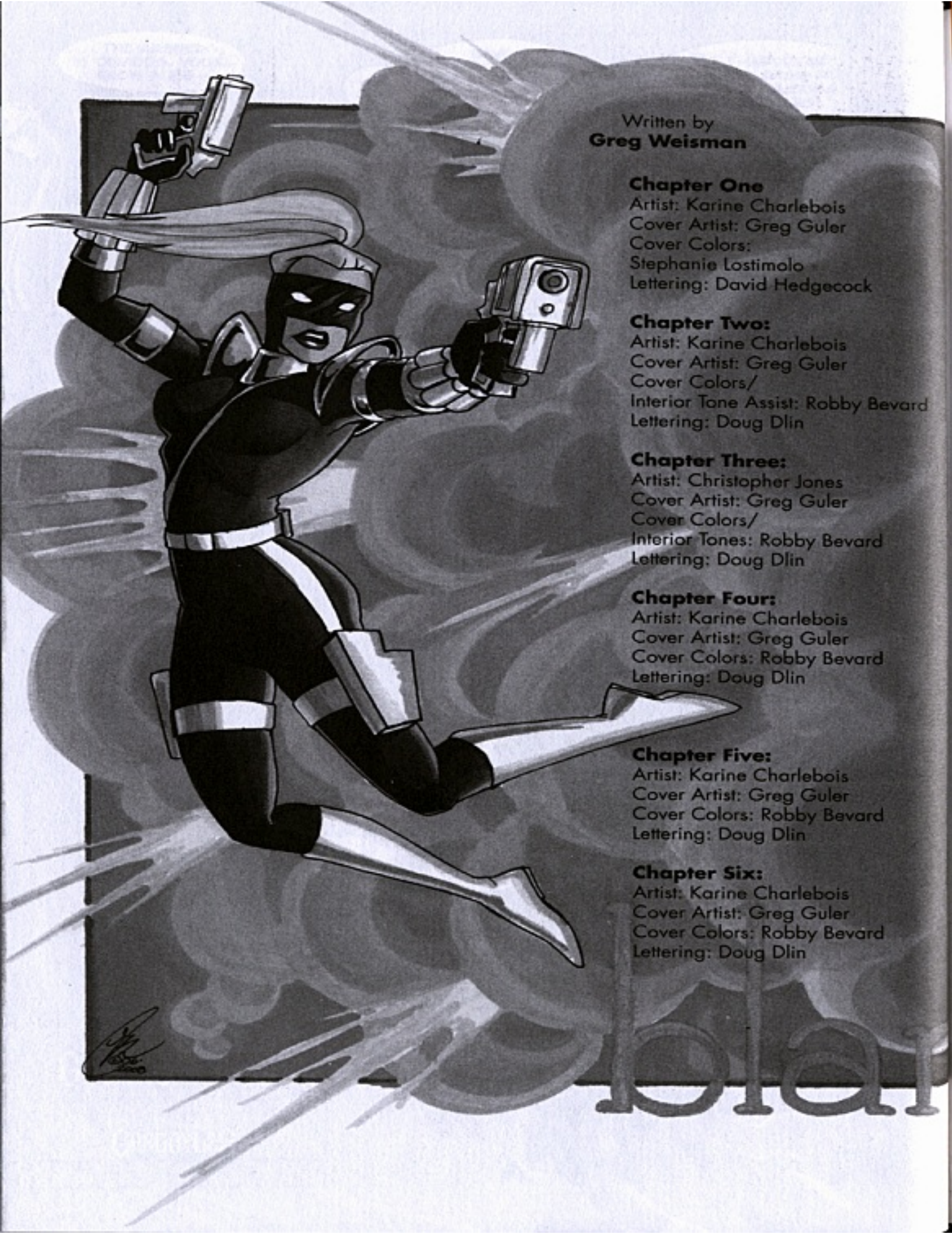
This series has been dedicated to the memory of

GARY SPERLING

and partially based on his work as the co-creator of

GARGOYLES: BAD GUYS

FIN



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MINERVION